

Sunday Worship Service – October 4, 2026
19th Sunday after Pentecost
***With One Voice – Holy Communion – Bread of Life, Setting 5* (p.28-41)**

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Bible Readings¹

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out for us. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished through God's presence through word, service, and fellowship so that we may share Christ's love, acceptance, and forgiveness with all.

Prayer of Confession²

Divine God, **we try to grow happily, patiently, and faithfully in the soil you have prepared for us. You feed us, shelter us, and provide for our daily needs. Yet, we often fail to offer you the fruit of our harvest. We act as though we were abandoned children, trying to make it on our own. We feel forsaken, attacked by wild boars, cut down by our enemies, and neglected in the wilderness of our lives. Yet, through it all, you remain faithful. Renew our lives once more, and we will call your name on high.**

Words of Assurance

Be assured that God's love is sufficient. In the warmth of the sun, the fertility of the soil, and the refreshment of life-giving water, we have been given all that we need. God hears our cries, and comes to save us. Through Christ we may lay aside our sins;

through Christ, we know we are safe.

We are forgiven in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

WOV #718 Gathering Hymn "*Here in This Place*"

- 1. Here in this place new light is streaming,**

¹ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

² By Sara Dunning Lambert. Posted on the Worship Elements page of the Ministry Matters website.

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/article/entry/4054/worship-elements-august-18-2013#ixzz2Zil1RRHD>

- now is the darkness vanished away;
 see in this space our fears and our dreamings
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
 gather us in, the blind and the lame;
 call to us now, and we shall awaken,
 we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
 we are the old who yearn for your face;
 we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
 called to be light to the whole human race.
 Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
 gather us in, the proud and the strong;
 give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
 give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
 here we will take the bread of new birth,
 here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
 call us anew to be salt for the earth.
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
 give us to eat the bread that is you;
 nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
 lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
 not in some heaven, light years away –
 here in this place the new light is shining,
 now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
 Gather us in and hold us forever,
 gather us in and make us your own;
 gather us in, all peoples together,
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

p.28 **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

p.28 **Kyrie**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: Lord, have mercy.

p.29 **Hymn of Praise “Glory to God”**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth,
and peace to God’s people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day³

Gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, rich in love, we bless your name and give you thanks. In our need, you make haste to help us. You plant us beside streams of your wisdom, teach us in pastures greenening with truth, and guide us on the path of your promise. By your Spirit awaken our faith, that, feasting on your Word, we may love you more fully and serve our neighbor more faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

³ <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2829/>

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

In the Old Testament reading from Isaiah, the prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

The Old Testament reading from Isaiah, chapter 5:

Let me sing for my loved one a love song for his vineyard.
 My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
 He dug it, cleared away its stones, planted it with excellent vines,
 built a tower inside it, and dug out a wine vat in it.
 He expected it to grow good grapes— but it grew rotten grapes.
 So now, you who live in Jerusalem, you people of Judah,
 judge between me and my vineyard:
 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I haven't done for it?
 When I expected it to grow good grapes, why did it grow rotten grapes?
 Now let me tell you what I'm doing to my vineyard.
 I'm removing its hedge, so it will be destroyed.
 I'm breaking down its walls, so it will be trampled.
 I'll turn it into a ruin; it won't be pruned or hoed,
 and thorns and thistles will grow up.
 I will command the clouds not to rain on it.
 The vineyard of the Lord of heavenly forces is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah are the plantings in which God delighted.
 God expected justice, but there was bloodshed;
 righteousness, but there was a cry of distress! (CEB)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, God of heavenly forces!
 Make your face shine so that we can be saved!
You brought a vine out of Egypt. You drove out the nations and planted it
 You cleared the ground for it; then it planted its roots deep, filling the land.
The mountains were covered by its shade;

the mighty cedars were covered by its branches.

It sent its branches all the way to the sea,
its shoots went all the way to the Euphrates River.

So why have you now torn down its walls

so that all who come along can pluck its fruit,

so that any boar from the forest can tear it up, so that the bugs can feed on it?

Please come back, God of heavenly forces!

Look down from heaven and perceive it!

Attend to this vine, this root that you planted with your strong hand
this son whom you secured as your very own.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

In this letter written to the church in Philippi, Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

A reading from Philippians, chapter 3:

I have good reason to have this kind of confidence. If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more: I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews. With respect to observing the Law, I'm a Pharisee. With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church. With respect to righteousness under the Law, I'm blameless.

These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being

conformed to his death so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. Brothers and sisters and siblings, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus. (CEB)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.31 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

In the gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower.

Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip. When it was time for harvest, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit.

But the tenant farmers grabbed his servants. They beat some of them, and some of them they killed. Some of them they stoned to death.

"Again he sent other servants, more than the first group.

They treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them.

'They will respect my son,' he said.

"But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other,

'This is the heir. Come on, let's kill him and we'll have his inheritance.'

They grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

"When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

They said, "He will totally destroy those wicked farmers and rent the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him the fruit when it's ready."

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the scriptures, *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it's amazing in our eyes?* Therefore, I tell you that God's kingdom will be taken away from you and will be given to a people who produce its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be crushed. And the stone will crush the person it falls on."

Now when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard the parable, they knew Jesus was talking about them. They were trying to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, who thought he was a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

WOV #746 Hymn of the Day *"Day by Day"*

1. Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.
2. Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your living will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.
3. Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,

you will hold me ever in your hand.
 Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
 I will reach at last the promised land.

p.33 Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession⁴

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world. *A brief silence.*

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day.
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones (*regions in crisis may be named*), and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees.
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

⁴ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word.
We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit,
that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and
those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

p.35 Offertory

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

p.35 Offering Prayer

Merciful God, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given
us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

p.36 Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you.

As you gave our ancestors in faith food and water in the desert, even when
they turned away from you, you have promised to free us from all divisions
and to give us eternal life. And so with your creatures on earth and all the
heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.36 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

p.39 **The Lord's Prayer**
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
 Amen.**

Communion Distribution

p.39 ***Lamb of God***
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.**

WOV #705 Communion Hymn "As the Grains of Wheat"

Refrain: **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
 were gathered into one to become our bread;
 so may all your people from all the ends of earth
 be gathered into one in you.**

1. **As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
 may we share the presence of your love. (*Refrain*)**
2. **Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
 when all creation shares this feast with you. (*Refrain*)**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion*

God of all creation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through this meal, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord upon you with favour and + give you peace. Amen.

WOV #760 Sending Hymn "*For the Fruit of All Creation*"

1. **For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.**
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.
2. **In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.**
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.
3. **For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.**
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God in word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**